

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-01550-CRC**

LEOPOLD et al v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Assigned to: Judge Christopher R. Cooper
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 06/28/2018
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

JASON LEOPOLD

represented by **Matthew Lynn Schafer**
BUZZFEED INC.
111 East 18th Street
14th Floor
New York, NY 10003
(646) 798-0693
Fax: (212) 431-7461
Email: matthew.schafer@buzzfeed.com
TERMINATED: 02/28/2019

Merrick Jason Wayne
LOEVY & LOEVY
311 N. Aberdeen Street
Third Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 243-5900
Fax: (312) 243-5902
Email: merrick@loevy.com
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Matthew Topic
LOEVY & LOEVY
311 N. Aberdeen Street
Third Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 243-5900
Fax: (312) 243-5902
Email: matt@loevy.com
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Plaintiff

BUZZFEED INC.

represented by **Matthew Lynn Schafer**
(See above for address)
TERMINATED: 02/28/2019

Merrick Jason Wayne
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Matthew Topic
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

represented by **Patricia K. McBride**
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

555 Fourth Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20530
 (202) 252-7123
 Fax: (202) 252-2599
 Email: patricia.mcbride@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
06/28/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5562157) filed by Jason Leopold, BUZZFEED INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Civil Cover Sheet Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>3</u> Summons Summons)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/28/2018)
06/28/2018	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., Jason Leopold (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/28/2018)
06/29/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Christopher R. Cooper. (zsb) (Entered: 06/29/2018)
06/29/2018	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsb) (Entered: 06/29/2018)
07/11/2018	<u>4</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Lynn Schafer on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 07/11/2018)
07/18/2018	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 7/9/2018 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/18/2018)
07/18/2018	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 7/9/2018. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/18/2018)
07/18/2018	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 7/9/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/8/2018. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/18/2018)
08/06/2018	<u>8</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 08/06/2018)
08/06/2018	<u>9</u>	RESPONSE re <u>8</u> MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer filed by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 08/06/2018)
08/09/2018		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>8</u> Defendant's Motion for Extension of Time to Answer. Defendant shall answer or otherwise respond to the complaint by September 8, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 8/9/2018. (lccrc1) (Entered: 08/09/2018)
08/09/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Responses due by 9/8/2018. (znbn) (Entered: 08/09/2018)
09/10/2018	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 09/10/2018)
09/14/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall promptly confer and file a joint proposed schedule for briefing or disclosure by September 28, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 09/14/2018. (lccrc1) (Entered: 09/14/2018)
09/17/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Proposed Briefing Schedule or Disclosure due by 9/28/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 09/17/2018)
09/18/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 9/28/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 09/18/2018)
09/28/2018	<u>11</u>	STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(McBride, Patricia) (Main Document 11 replaced on 10/1/2018) (ztd).

		(Attachment 1 replaced on 10/1/2018) (ztd). Modified on 10/1/2018 to correct add correct initials of Judge (ztd). (Entered: 09/28/2018)
10/01/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file an updated joint status report by October 30, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 10/1/2018. (lccrc1) (Entered: 10/01/2018)
10/01/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/30/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 10/01/2018)
10/30/2018	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 10/30/2018)
11/01/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file an updated joint status report by November 30, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 11/1/2018. (lccrc1) (Entered: 11/01/2018)
11/01/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/30/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 11/01/2018)
11/29/2018	<u>13</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>file updated Joint Status Report</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 11/29/2018)
11/29/2018		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>13</u> Motion for Extension of Time. The parties shall file their updated joint status report on or before December 7, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 11/29/2018. (lccrc1) (Entered: 11/29/2018)
11/30/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/7/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 11/30/2018)
12/07/2018	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 12/07/2018)
12/12/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file an updated joint status report by January 18, 2019. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 12/12/2018. (lccrc1) (Entered: 12/12/2018)
12/12/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/18/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 12/12/2018)
01/16/2019	<u>15</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Stay , MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>in Light of Lapse of Appropriations</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Hudak, Brian) (Entered: 01/16/2019)
01/17/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>15</u> Motion to Stay and Motion for Extension. All deadlines in the case shall be stayed pending renewed funding. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 1/17/2019. (lccrc1) (Entered: 01/17/2019)
02/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the restoration of appropriations, the stay in this case is lifted. The parties shall provide a joint status report on or before February 8, 2019, which shall include a proposed schedule for future proceedings. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 2/1/2019. (lccrc1) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/01/2019	<u>16</u>	NOTICE by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/05/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/8/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 02/05/2019)
02/08/2019	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/13/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>17</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties file a further joint status report within thirty (30) days of this order by March 15, 2019. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 2/13/2019. (lccrc1) (Entered: 02/13/2019)
02/13/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/15/2019. (znbn) (Entered: 02/13/2019)

02/28/2019	<u>18</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. Attorney Matthew Lynn Schafer terminated. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 02/28/2019)
03/15/2019	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 03/15/2019)
03/20/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>19</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file an updated joint status report by May 15, 2019. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 3/20/2019. (lccrc1) (Entered: 03/20/2019)
03/20/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 5/15/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 03/20/2019)
03/25/2019	<u>20</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/25/2019)
05/15/2019	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 05/15/2019)
05/15/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>21</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report by July 15, 2019. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 5/15/2019. (lccrc1) (Entered: 05/15/2019)
07/15/2019	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 07/15/2019)
07/16/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>22</u> joint status report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report by September 13, 2019. That report shall provide further details on the number of pages and responsive documents and the government's progress towards processing and producing those records. The parties are further ordered to conclude their negotiations over Part 1 of the request and either provide the Court with a processing proposal or present any disputes for the Court's resolution. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 7/16/2019. (lccrc1) (Entered: 07/16/2019)
07/16/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/13/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 07/16/2019)
08/06/2019	<u>23</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 08/06/2019)
09/13/2019	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 09/13/2019)
09/17/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>24</u> joint status report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report by September 26, 2019. That report shall provide further details on the number of pages and responsive documents and the government's progress towards processing and producing those records. The parties are instructed to include a proposed briefing schedule if they are unable to agree on a narrowed scope for Part 1 of the request. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 9/17/19. (lccrc1) (Entered: 09/17/2019)
09/17/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/26/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 09/17/2019)
09/26/2019	<u>25</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (McBride, Patricia) (Entered: 09/26/2019)
10/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>25</u> joint status report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report by December 16, 2019. The Court declines to set a summary judgment briefing schedule on Part 1 of the request at this time and will accept briefing on all issues at the conclusion of the production. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 10/1/19. (lccrc1) (Entered: 10/01/2019)
10/01/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/16/2019. (nbn) (Entered: 10/01/2019)